

Serial No.: 10/707,582
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Patent

Amendment To The Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0002] Documents are often created by groups of people that collaborate through iterations of additions, changes and suggestions. Team collaboration is often used when creating or maintaining documents. A ~~principle~~ principal author may create an original document. Similarly, a ~~principle~~ principal author may create an initial draft of a document. The ~~principle~~ principal author typically uses a processing system such as a personal computer with document creation software installed. Once created, the document may be circulated to several team members for annotation. Typically, hardcopy paper printouts are circulated to the team members. The team members then each mark the document as needed and forward the annotations to the ~~principle~~ principal author or another designated person so that the updates and comments may be processed.

[0005] In a traditional document collaboration effort, a ~~principle~~ principal author or editor creates an original document draft. The copies of the draft are circulated to the group and a member of the group is assigned the task of updating the draft to a new version. The group members typically provide change suggestions or comments by annotating the paper copy and returning it to the editor. The task of updating is usually performed by the principle author or editor and may include adding information, deleting information and/or changing information. There may be many hardcopy comment versions to reconcile and the process may be cumbersome. Furthermore, two or more of the suggestions may present a conflict and the member updating the draft may decide to enter the competing versions as alternatives or resolve the conflict. The process may be iterative as the editor circulates subsequent drafts for comment until the document is finalized.